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## No turning back



apocalypse

disease

zombies

22 0 3

### Chapter 1 by Rose Winchester

I am roused out of a restless sleep by a loud ringing noise somewhere by my right ear. I fumbled around feeling for my glasses, my eyes still foggy with sleep. Finally I felt the smooth curve meaning I had found them. I shoved them on and grabbed the aggravating telephone. As soon as I murmured hello I heard an unfamiliar rough, male voice. "Is this the Everlark residence?" The voice said formally.

"Yes, Lily speaking. Who is this?" I asked my voice trembling. I chanced a glance at the clock opposite me 1:00am. Who calls at 1 in the morning?

"I am part of an organization to help discover the cure to the Shadow Plague. We are collecting people who seem to be immune to help everyone who has been affected. Please come down to the plaza where a helicarrier will pick you up." The strange voice said. Oh, yes the Shadow Plague the terrible disease that was sweeping Canada. The disease caused someone to forget everything and everyone they'd ever known and turn into a mad, murderous creature. No cure had been found as of yet and everyone had boarded up their houses and separated from family members in hope of neither contracting or spreading the terrible disease.

"Ok the cure must be found. When am I to be at the plaza?" I asked my voice shaking with

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soon as his eyes glowed. I ran inside to my house and told my parents about my brother, but they were affected too. They reached out to me as if hoping I could help, but I knew they would turn on me in a matter of seconds. So I had had run here where I knew it was safe. Only just managing to grab a few possessions of mine. The memory faded away and I realized I was crying. He was only 10, The memory still made my heart wrench.

“You are expected at 6:00 this morning. If you are not there we will leave without you.” He said before the line went dead and I heard that the buzzing that meant he had hung up. I walked over to what little possessions I had managed to scavenge from my disease strewn house and threw them into my bag I got, for what is supposed to be, my first year of high school. I grabbed money that I had managed to steal. Normally I would have felt horrible about stealing but now was the time for drastic measures. I was lucky the disease had only started to spread if it had spread more than it has, I wouldn't be able to get something to protect myself, but there was no reason to say that I wouldn't have to break into the hunting shop nearby for a bow. If I got bitten I would only have a very slim chance of survival, even if I was immune to air transmission. I set my alarm clock to 4:30 and went back to sleep. RINGGGGG! A shock ran up my spine. What happened! Slowly, I remembered the phone call. I ran across the room turning off the alarm clock as I went. I grabbed my bag and tip-toed downstairs, best not to wake more people than necessary. Once I got to the door I silently opened my bag pulling a container out from its depths. I opened it and rubbed the lotion into my skin, making my skin appear scaly green like the victims of the Shadow Plague. I extended a shaky hand and turned the handle. I stepped outside and immediately started to sprint to the hunting shop. I banged on the door and when no one answered I grabbed a crowbar from my bag and smashed the window. Climbing inside I saw my target, a camouflaged hunting bow with a sheath of arrows and a shiny rifle with 2 packs of ammunition. I opened the protective, strong, glass case with a bobby pin that I had had in my hair the day when I had to run from the disease. I put the safety on the rifle and stuck it in my bag with the sheath of arrows, crowbar, bobby pins, and other supplies. The bow hanging loosely in my hand at my side. I stepped out of the shop and began to run down the street towards the road leading to the Plaza. I got about halfway there when I saw it. A large helicopter was descending and I realized it was going to touch down right beside me. I stepped

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"I'LL EXPLAIN AS SOON AS YOU GET UP HERE!" She replied "HURRY!" Her voice was laced with anxiety. I grabbed the rope and started to climb, when I heard a whizzing going by my ear. Out of the corner of my eye I saw a bullet narrowly miss my ear. The girl with the black hair grabbed a gun and fired back at whoever was firing at us. I scrambled up the ladder and the girl shut the opening I had climbed through.

"We need to get up higher!" She yelled at someone who I assumed was piloting the ship. I felt the helicopter rise and turned to the girl.

"You must have a million questions," She said reading my mind. "My name is Monica Black. Those people who were firing at you were the same people who called you. Don't ask how I know this I got the call too. They are not trying to help, they want to develop the disease more. They are the ones who created the disease in the first place. They want to create an army of monsters to take over the world and -"

"Filthy power hungry\_!"

"That's enough Wayne!" Monica yelled at the voice that had interrupted her. "Ah here we are." I turned and stared where she was pointing "Welcome to HQ!"

There was a large building with huge towers stationed all around at what must be the main aircraft hanger and research area. As we touched down we jumped off the helicopter and raced towards the building.

"So this is the newbie!" I turned around and was greeted by a roughly 20 year old man well built and muscled. "Hi, I'm Wayne, I piloted the 'copter." He smirked down at me. I felt tiny next to him. I was already short for a 14 year old. I was lead into a large room filled with bunkers by a young lanky boy who must have only been 12 or so. He explained that these would be my living quarters.

"Breakfast is at 8:00, try to get some sleep." He said as he walked towards the bunker a few rows down. I slipped into the bed and immediately fell asleep.

I was dragged back to reality as i was shook and shook until I opened my eyes. I shoved on my glasses and reached for the bow in the same movement.

"Woah, easy sleepy head it's me Monica." Her familiar voice said laughing. "Breakfast come on!" I stumbled out of bed and was lead to a people filled canteen "MONICA! You need to see this!"

yelled a woman with short blond hair who looked to be in her 30s. "You'd better come too, Lily" Monica said. We ran to a room down the hallway, the walls were covered in maps and a large board at the far wall. The woman ran and sat down. "This is the plan, we need to see this!"

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"Take a look at the Hanger security screen there!" She said pointing at a screen to my right. Me and Monica moved over and what i saw took my breath away. The people affected were swarming over the hanger walls. I ran back to my bunker slung the sheath of arrows over my shoulder and grabbed my bow and rifle. I ran out to help. I looked around me searching for someone without a weapon. Then I saw him, he was staring around looking to see if there was anything for him to grab. I ran over to him and passed him my rifle and ran outside with everyone else. I armed my bow with the sharpest arrows and took down creature after creature. One creature turned around and lunged of the building towards me.

"Look out!" Monica yelled behind me. I stared at the creature and a flicker of recognition those green eyes that I knew so well were staring at me one again.

"Ben?" I murmured. Seeing my brother like this tore my heart apart, but I had no time to take it in because he leapt at me intending to tear out my throat. Not wanting to kill him I swung my bow around and it smashed into his skull. I watched him collapse with a gasp of horror.

"Get him in the containment room!" Yelled a voice behind me. I slung his pale green arm and dragged him into the main building searching for the containment room. When I got there I shoved him inside and locked the door. I stared through the gap in the door and assured myself he would be safe. Then without another glance I ran back to join the fight.

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